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BYGONES.

SOME THINGS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN

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IN THE

HISTORY OF NORTHFIELD,

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

READ BEFORE THE

NORTHFIELD AND TILTON WOMAN'S CLUB.

LUCY R. H. CROSS.

CONCORD, N. H.

NOV. 17, 1900.

BYGONES—SOME THINGS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN IN THE HISTORY OF NORTHFIELD.¹

By Lucy R. H. Cross.



THE story of border and pioneer life is always an interesting, but not always a pleasant, one.

Variety it may have, and every day adventure, comedy, and tragedy, perhaps, though it might

Give you no pleasure
Or add to your treasure
Could I weave it into a song.

Will Carlton says:

"It isn't the funniest thing a man can do,
Existing in a country when 'tis new.
Nature, who moved in first a good long while
Has things already somewhat her own style,
She don't want things exposed from porch to closet
And so she kind-o-nags the one who does it.
She loves her ague muscle to display
And shake him up most every other day.
She finds time 'mong her other family cares
To keep in stock good wildcats, wolves, and bears,
And those who've wrestled with his bloody art
Say, 'Nature always takes the Indian's part.'"

Canterbury, which means Northfield as well, was for a long time the extreme border town. It was granted to Richard Waldron and others in 1727, and was incorporated in 1741. The Scotch Irish from Londonderry took possession of the Merrimack River Intervale in 1721. An old house near the site of the "Muchido" was used as a fort, and must have seen many sieges, for when it was torn down, bullets were found embedded in the oaken walls, and others

between the walls and wainscot. There was also a fort farther back on the hill, commanded by Capt. Jeremiah Clough, which was also a depot for provisions and a rendezvous for provincial troops during Lovewell's and the French and Indian wars, and a strong guard was always kept there. Not only did the garrison have to contend with wild beasts, and the more cruel Indian, but there was a bitter jealousy between them and the Rumford colony just below them.

Canterbury was a New Hampshire settlement, incorporated by the New Hampshire government, and settled by New Hampshire people, while Rumford was settled by Massachusetts people, and incorporated by the "Great and General Court," and the people looked to it for help and protection. They were angry that Canterbury was supplied with provisions and a competent force of troops, and this feeling did not entirely die out, until the brave soldiers of the two settlements had fought side by side in the many fast-following wars.

Capt. Jeremiah Clough, who was later well known in Revolutionary history, was here furnished with scouts, who roamed the wooded acres of Northfield long before a settler dared choose a home away from under the shelter of the fort. Many of the muster rolls of Captain Clough are

¹ Read before the Northfield and Tilton Woman's Club, Nov. 17, 1900.

still in existence. In the spring of 1743 he had twenty men for thirty-nine days. March 8 the house of representatives voted to pay him £16, 12s., 10d.

The next November he had six, and in April and May, 1744, seven men. June 2, 1746, the house voted to pay him £18 for "ye defense of the government." In anticipation of the Indian War in 1746 the garrison was strengthened and he had eleven scouts.

Captain Clough went along the Winnipiscogee river as far as the "great pond," with a force of nineteen men. He used to furnish the bread but their meat was supplied by the game in the forests through which they passed. It was through and through these forests bordering the Merrimack and Winnipiscogee rivers, on whose banks large numbers of Indians built their wigwams and on whose waters they paddled their canoes, that the scouts passed, and from their ranks came the first settlers of the "north fields" of Canterbury, at the close of the Indian War.

It is thought that Jonathon Heath built his hut on the Merrimack interval two years before Benjamin Blanchard brought his family to Bay Hill in 1760. He was then forty-one years old, and his father was killed at the fort, twenty-two years before. From this time to 1776 those about the fort moved to the north and established homes along the river. Among others John Forrest came to the Leighton place, near Franklin Falls, in 1774. He had nine children. His son William cleared a few acres near the center of the north fields, put it into grain and the next year went to Bunker Hill.

He returned sick and wounded and resumed his life-work, farming. He planted his corn himself sixty years in succession and was absent but once from the annual town-meeting. He died at eighty-seven, leaving fourteen children and forty-one grandchildren. He was a firm Democrat, as were all his sons and grandsons. He drew a pension for many years. His brother James went nearer the river to the east. His descendants have through the successive generations been celebrated school teachers and prominent business men of the town. This is the only one of the twelve families of Forrests whose descendants still remain in town, while of the twelve families of Rogers not one is left.

Mr. Shubeal Dearborn purchased his farm, according to the deed, in 1779. He was married in homespun at twenty-six, and began housekeeping without a bed or crockery, in a house with but one pane of glass. Frugality and industry in time made him the possessor of a good house, well furnished, and the fine farm until lately in the possession of his great-grandson, the late John S. Dearborn. He was obliged to haul his building material from Portsmouth with an ox team. It is said a cradle, for the numerous children who came to gladden the home, was hollowed out of a log, and had done duty as a sap trough, before the rockers were attached to it.

There have been twenty-four families of Dearborns in town, and it seems to have been a family of physicians, as twelve have taken medical degrees, and several of them have been noted practitioners.

Twenty-six physicians claim Northfield as their birthplace, and fourteen

others have practised here for longer or shorter periods. Dr. Nancy Gilman was the first woman in the state to study and practice medicine. Dr. Richard S. Moloney, after leaving Northfield, succeeded Hon. John Wentworth as the U. S. Senator from Illinois at the age of thirty-nine. He died in Nebraska in 1891.

The following named persons from the "north fields" served in the Revolutionary War and were at Bunker Hill:

Lieut. Jno. Gilman, 1st Lieut. Charles Glidden, Shubael Dearborn, Nathaniel Dearborn, George Hancock, Jos. Hancock, John Cross, Reuben Kezar, Nathaniel Perkins, Jr., ¹Joseph Glines, Abner Miles, Jonathan Wadleigh, John Dearborn, David Kenison, Richard Blanchard, William Hancock, Parker Cross, ¹Nathaniel Perkins, William Rines, William Forrest.

The following persons served elsewhere in the Revolutionary War:

Lieut. Thomas Lyford, ²Phineas Fletcher, Jonathan Leavitt, Benjamin Collins, Benjamin Glines, Thomas Cross, Isaiah Willey, Robert Perkins, David Morgan, ³Benjamin Drew, Wadleigh Leavit, Edward Dyer, John Rowen, Robert Foss, John Willey, Mathew Haines, William Glines, Moses Cross.

The following persons who had served in the Revolutionary War had their residence later in the town (in 1854):

Capt. James Shephard, Ensign Abraham Brown, Ord. Sergt. Samuel T. Gilman, Mathew N. Sanborn, Samuel Haines, Morrill Shephard, John Shephard, Samuel Dalton, Joseph Mann, Surgeon George Kezer, Levi Morrill, David Clough, Perkins Pike, Jonathan Gilman, Jonathan Ayers, Edward Fifield, Jotham Sawyer, John Rollins, John Sutton, Elias Abbott, Abner Flanders, Samuel Dinsmore, John Dinsmore, Isaac Richardson, Jacob Richardson, Joseph Ellison, Caleb Aldrich, Jonathan Wadleigh, Moses Danforth, Henry Danforth, Jedediah Dan-

forth, Stephen Haines, Samuel Goodwin, Jesse Carr, Joseph Clisby, Samuel Rogers, James Muchmore, William Danford, Samuel Rogers, Robert Forrest, Henry Tibbets.

This list comprises one captain, three lieutenants, one adjutant, three orderly, and several other sergeants.

John Dinsmore was one of General Washington's body guard. He drew \$96 a year pension. He died in 1846, aged ninety-four. He was a fierce Democrat and became so enraged at his brother for once selling his vote for a new pair of pantaloons that he had nothing to do with him thereafter.

Elias Abbott was in Bedel's Regiment, Captain Osgood's Company, list of Rangers sent to Canada to fight Indians in 1776, and was placed on the pension roll, Dec. 15, 1830. He drew \$96 a year.

Moses Cross was with Capt. James Shephard, Continental Line, Northern Army, and drew a pension from July 21, 1836.

Joseph Clisby drew \$70 a year. John Dinsmore first drew \$70, then \$96, from June 16, 1819. Samuel Dinsmore drew \$96 a year.

Samuel Goodwin was with Colonel Wingate, Captain Calef, and later Captain Salter, in the artillery at Fort Washington; later with Capt. David Place at Seavey's Island, Nov. 5, as matross man. He was later with Colonel Wingate and Capt. James Arnold at Ticonderoga.

Caleb Aldrich, under Colonel Reed, Captain Hinds, went to New York. He was pensioned Dec. 6, 1832, at \$80 per year.

Lieut. Charles Glidden was in the French and Indian War, and was at the taking of Quebec by General

¹ Died at Bunker Hill.

² Died at Yorktown.

³ Died in army camp.

Wolfe in 1759, and at the taking of Montreal by General Amherst in 1760, and afterward an officer in the Revolutionary War. His commission was signed by General Washington, and is still preserved by his descendants. He was later a prominent citizen of Northfield and was the delegate of the town to the convention at Exeter when the Federal Constitution was adopted in 1788. His neighbor, the grandfather of Wesley Knowles (?) was taken prisoner at the surrender of Fort William Henry, and still another neighbor was in Stark's Company of Rangers.

William and Francis Kenniston were in Capt. John Moore's Company of Rangers from April 24 to July 16, 1756.

Captain Pevey also took a company to join the Rangers, among whom we find the names of Edward Presby, Nathaniel Keniston, and Benjamin Rogers. They were to serve from May 1 to Nov. 26, 1756. These were sent to reinforce General Stark who was with the Rogers Rangers.

The following soldiers of the War of 1812 were under Colonel Steele in Capt. Ed. Fuller's Company, and were mustered in Sept. 28, 1814, for sixty days :

Benj. Rollins, John Marden, Samuel Carr, Jr., Benjamin Morrill, Ephraim Cross, Milton Giles, James Otis, and David Keniston, Jr.

The latter was always called "Infant David," either because he belonged to the Infantry, or because of his immense size and height.

Jonathan Gile and a friend, whose name has been lost, were transferred from this company to the Fourth United States Regiment, Western Brigade, ordered to Vincennes and were

at the Battle of Tippecanoe. He was drowned. His friend returned with his personal effects and dying message.

Before taking leave of the military history of the town I wish to put on record the following, though it may not be in chronological order :

The following named men were mustered into the United States service from New Hampshire in the "War of the Rebellion" under call of July 2, 1862, and subsequent calls and assigned to the quota of Northfield, or went prior to the date given, or were natives of Northfield who enlisted elsewhere :

First Regiment—Abe Libby.

Second Regiment—Edmund Sanders.

Third Regiment—Peter Hilton, James Lynch.

Fourth Regiment—Benjamin Hannaford, Israel Hall, Richard Dearborn, James Tilton, Winthrop Presby, James Danforth, Aaron Veasey, Curtis Whittier, William Parsons, Abram Dearborn, John Collins, Corp. Charles Cofran, George W. Clark, Thomas Benton Clark.

Sixth Regiment—James Martin, Thomas King, John Johnson, Charles Marsh, Josiah Robbins, Charles Dinsmore, Joseph Dinsmore.

Seventh Regiment—Frank Edson.

Eighth Regiment—Gideon Coty, Corp. Charles Arlin, George Whitcher.

Ninth Regiment—Thomas Austin, Wallace Chase, Lucien Chase, Thomas Gile, Jr., Van Peabody, Walter F. Glines, Alonzo Hoyt, Charles H. Davis, Charles W. Tilton, William H. Roberts, Joseph Bennet.

Eleventh Regiment—John W. Downes.

Twelfth Regiment—Calvin W. Beck, John Dalton, Asa Witham, Ira Whitcher, George Niles, Frank Braley, Cornelius Braley, James Farley, John Keniston, George Roberts, Charles Woodward, Benjamin Clark, Byron K. Morrison, Bill Harriot, Fred Keniston, Hiram Hodgdon, sutler.

Fifteenth Regiment—Jeremiah Hall, M. D. surgeon, Albert McDaniel, Thomas G. Ames.

Sixteenth Regiment—Ervin Hurd, Rufus Brown, H. Tilton, John W. Piper, *William A. Gil*

Eighteenth Regiment—Albert Brown, Arthur Merrill, John W. Piper, *Capt. William*

or to Franklin

Veterans' Relief Corps—Samuel C. Field.

First Cavalry—Charles Smart, William Craigue, Asa Dart, Lucien Knowles, George Stark, Peter Casey, George Keyes, James Be Gold, John Morrow, George Smith.

Heavy Artillery—Hiram H. Cross, Albert McDaniel, Albert Titcomb, Joseph Mills Simonds, John Dinsmore.

United States Navy—Stephen Kenney, Clarence H. Abbott.

Marines—John Lyons, John Kelley, Joseph Sweeney, Joseph Perry, James McVay.

First Massachusetts Cavalry—William C. Whittier, credited to Tilton.

First United States Artillery—Abe Libby (reënlisted), James Morrison, Charles Stevens.

One Hundred and Seventeenth Infantry—Capt. William A. Gile, credited to Franklin.

Veteran Battalion—Charles Arlin (reënlisted).

Eighth Illinois Cavalry—George R. Clough, credited to Evanston, Ill.

Regular Army (under Gen. Joe Hooker)—Charles W. Clough, credited to New Boston, N. H., retired for moon blindness.

Rev. John Chamberlain was sent out by Governor Berry to look after the sick and wounded New Hampshire boys, anywhere and everywhere, and was pensioned by special act of Congress.

So let us be proud that Northfield has ever done her duty according to her strength in helping to maintain one of the grandest governments in the world. Go past our cemeteries on Memorial Day and you will see the fluttering of the little flags that show how freely her blood was shed not only for the dear old "Stars and Stripes," but for the banners our forefathers bore.

In June, 1780, Northfield was set off from Canterbury and incorporated as a parish. Mr. Nathaniel Whiteher was the prime mover. The Merrimack and Winnipiseogee rivers formed its entire western and northern boundaries. It contained 17,000 acres and

was in Rockingham county until 1823.

A portion of Northfield was combined with other territory, to form the town of Franklin, Dec. 24, 1828. But the same territory was re-annexed to Northfield, July 3, 1830, and again restored to Franklin, June 26, 1858. A part of two farms were severed and annexed to Franklin, June 27, 1861.

The first meeting the town held Nov. 21, 1780, was at the house of John Simonds. The first tax was sixty bushels of corn.

Six thousand dollars was voted for highways, allowing forty dollars for a day's work. This item is presumably a mistake, unless we may learn from it the value of continental money at that time.

The third town-meeting held May, 1787, must have been a very important one. The record shows three items of business:

Voted after choosing the moderator—

1st. To take the Buzzil family into the care of the town.

2nd. To drink two bowls at the town caust.

3d. Voted in addition to the above vote 'To drink six more on the town caust.

Loudon was also a part of Canterbury, set off in 1773. So, whenever we speak of dear old Mother Northfield let us not forget to think kindly of Aunt Loudon and Grandmother Canterbury.

As I have before said the first settlers were from Canterbury fort. Nathaniel Whiteher soon came from Lee and purchased 500 acres of wild land and established his four sons near and around Chestnut pond. Mr. Wesley Knowles's grandfather bought

his farm of Mr. Whitcher, it is said, for a two-year-old heifer.

Mr. Jonathan Clough came from Salisbury, Mass., with four children, in midwinter on an ox sled, with all their worldly possessions. The two sons took opposite farms on Bay Hill, which are still held in the family.

Jonathan Wadleigh, a Revolutionary soldier, came from Kingston to Bean Hill, moving later to the farm next below the reservoir. His son, Peter Wadleigh, one of the leading men of the town, was a judge of the court of sessions when Merrimack county was organized in 1823.

Four Hill brothers came from Salisbury, Mass., and bought farms on and near Bay Hill. They were coopers and were attracted by the oak timber. The Cofrans came from Pembroke, the Winslows from London, and the Browns from Nottingham.

A large family of Giles came from Exeter and purchased a large tract of land, some 414 acres, southwest of the centre of the town, where the family removed.

The Gerrishes came from Bristol, England, to Newbury, Mass., then to Boston, and Henry was one of the first settlers of Boscawen.

The Gliddens from Maine, and the Smiths from Old Hampton.

Henry Tibbetts came from the Shakers, where he had brought his family a short time before. His son, Bradbury, tiring of Shaker life ran away and took a farm in East Northfield, where his father and family came a little later. Here they both lived and died. The father had been a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He had a fellow soldier named Sinclair, with whom he was intimate as

they fought side by side. The latter had left a young wife in his distant home and when he fell, mortally wounded, made his friend promise if he lived to return to carry the news of his death himself to her. He complied faithfully with the wish of his friend and in due time wooed and won her for his bride. There were born to them two daughters and seven sons, three of whom, Hiram, Nathan, and Charles were physicians, and spent most of their lives in Louisiana. Charles was a surgeon in the army during the Civil War.

Capt. Isaac Glines was born in Canterbury. His mother was a daughter of the first settler, Blanchard. He learned the carpenter's trade at Salem, Mass., and used to take men and materials and return home summers and erect first-class houses. He was captain of the "Home Guards" at Salem, and after his return to live at Northfield was captain in the State Militia.

Robert Gray and "Squire" John Moloney first came to Northfield as his help. The latter became sheriff and did an extensive business in the surrounding counties. After his death his numerous family moved West. Some are now living in Chicago.

Thomas Chase came from Concord to the Cross settlement. He was by trade a baker, but his father-in-law on his marriage bestowed many broad and fruitful acres on his bride as her marriage portion. He abandoned his chosen calling and became a thrifty farmer, adding from time to time, to his extensive farm until he became possessed of some five or six hundred acres.

Dr. Alexander Thompson Clark

came from Londonderry and read medicine with Dr. Lerner of Hopkinton.

In 1802 he came to Northfield after one or two years' practice in Canada. He was Fellow of New Hampshire Medical Society and died suddenly in 1821, leaving six children.

Stephen Chace came to Northfield in 1775 and built the first fulling mill in the parts where the Granite mill now stands. He lived in the house still standing at the entrance of Bay street, where he kept tavern. He owned all the land east and south of his mill for a considerable distance. He surrendered his business to his son, Benjamin, who put in a carding machine and continued it until sold to Jeremiah Tilton, who paid \$400 for the mill and four acres of land in 1820. He lived in a tenement over the mill until his new brick house near by was built. He was twice burned out and each time enlarged his plant, doing a prosperous business until his death in 1863.

Oak Hill was for many years called Foss Hill. Two brothers of the name owned all the land between the Pond Brook (now Phillips Brook) and the Canterbury line. There was a large family of Kenistons, one of Kenisons, and one of Kennersons, no relationship being claimed.

The following is copied from an ancient book called "Miscellaneous Documents and Records relating to New Hampshire at different periods:"

Northfield Apr. the 11th ye : : 1786

This is to sartify a greeable to an Act
Past the 3: ye: : 1786 a trew a Count of
all the Males peles is 75 and the number of
women and children is 274.

75	William Perkins,	} Select-
274	William Forrest,	
	Thomas Cross,	

I would like, if time permitted, to speak of many more of the noble men and women who came from time to time to make Northfield their home; who erected its churches, founded its schools, and gave their time and energies to the various industries of its every-day life; but I am now obliged to take leave of legitimate history, and without regard to chronology take an incident here and there, and acting the part of the oldest inhabitant bring to you in hurried detail a few disconnected stories, showing the ambitions and doings of the past.

There seems to have been something akin to rivalry even in those good old times. When Mr. Gilman built his barn, the first one in town, his next door neighbor built one twenty-five feet longer.

"Squire" Glidden, seeing no reason why he should not have as big a barn as any one, built one the next year longer by twenty-five feet and larger. Dr. Clark built a fine *two*-story house, and Squire Moloney built a finer one, close by, *three* stories high. The great September gale unroofed this house and when it was repaired one story was taken off.

Squire Moloney and Squire Glidden were always candidates for political honors, and were buying votes the whole year round. Some of Moloney's purchased votes went one year to elect Mr. Glidden, so the former charged the latter, for a whole barrel of rum, as the price of the votes he had stolen.

Ezekial Moore used to carry the mail on horseback from Concord, through Canterbury, over Bay Hill, as far as Gilmanton Corner. So you

see "Rural Delivery" is no new thing. He began in 1798, and gave his business to his neighbor, Tallant, in 1812—fourteen years.

The first manufacturing within the limits of the town was by four Cross brothers on a brook bearing their name, now called Phillips Brook, entering the Merrimack opposite the Webster place, where the Plummer brothers now reside. Here, close to Oak Hill, they established a grocery store, tailor's shop, carding machine, and fulling mill, sawmill, cooper's shop, grist-mill, and a jewelry manufacturing shop, making a specialty of gold beads. Other business gathered around then, such as shoeing shops for man and beast, and a shop where earthen and wooden ware was made. Their freighting was all done by boats on the Merrimack, and a ferry connected them with Boscawen.

Some of this business went later to the Centre, after the building of the Old Meeting House. Of the four sawmills, three tanneries, and four cooper's shops, once doing good business in town, not one remains.

The earliest schools were often kept in private houses. The first houses were all of the same general style, made of logs, with a rock chimney at one end, where, in winter, a roaring fire was kept, with unseasoned, uncleft wood. There were two holes on either side of the walls, each furnished with a single pane of glass. There was one on Bay Hill, one at the Centre, and Hodgdon, and perhaps one at Oak Hill, and only male teachers were employed.

Master Gleason at the Centre, had from sixty to eighty pupils. He boarded round and John Forrest was charged with the duty of carrying him a bottle of cider each day. Once by mistake or purposely the bottle was filled from the vinegar barrel. At the usual time, after the wear and tear of the morning hours, the master repaired to the closet, where the cider was wont to be kept, and dispensed with a good stout drink before he discovered his mistake. Speechless with rage and vinegar he could only shake his fist in the face of the boy, at the same time giving such power of expression to his face as would have been highly applauded on the stage. John was promised a good flogging and the master wore a sour look the rest of the day.

Dudley Leavitt, the astronomer and almanac maker, used to teach at the Hodgdon, and board with his sister on Bean Hill, always going on foot. Masters Thorn, Bowles, and Sutton were the most ancient teachers, most of whom excelled in arithmetic. It is said that Master Thorn, being cornered by Moses Batchelder on a sum, went to Master Abram Simonds, one of the best learned men of the town, who refused to assist him, but that he sat down with Benjamin Winslow, who could not cipher but who did it in his head, while the teacher wrote it down in figures.

Sally Thornton was the first female teacher. She used also to preach.

It was a long established custom for the big boys to sell the ashes and buy rum for the last day of school. Good Mother Winslow being present, once, when forestick, backlog, and all came

rolling out on the hearth and nearly suffocated them all before they could be righted, spoke right out, and said, "It were better to sell the ashes for shovel and tongs than to buy rum for the scholars." She was silenced at once by a voter present, who said, "Let 'um have their rum—let 'um have it. It'll do them as much good as salt does sheep once in a while." And so the ashes did not go for shovel and tongs.

I should not wish to say that Northfield people were worse than others in using spirituous liquor, but the first traders all kept it, and Saturday nights, men, boys, and all were in the habit of going with their jugs for a large or small quantity of it. No public gathering was in order without it. Mr. Jeremiah Kimball, who traded at the Centre many years, used to say, "He had sold rum enough there to fill the whole valley, so that a vessel could float above the treetops, straight from Sanbornton Bridge to the Canterbury line."

Let it be said to the credit of the good people, however, that right there the temperance reform began in this wise. There was to be a quarterly meeting at the Old Meeting House, and Squire Samuel Forrest, who often went with his team to Portsmouth for supplies for the merchants and others, was charged with the duty of delivering a barrel of New England rum in season for the anticipated gathering. No reason was given for the delay, but the good cheer did not arrive until time for the afternoon service. The meeting was postponed, and the barrel tapped without being unloaded from the wagon, and all drank their

fill. Elder Mahew Clark was to preach the afternoon sermon. As he ascended the long stairs to the little pulpit beneath the sounding board, he looked down on the elders and people half asleep from the effects of their libations.

He took for his text, "Woe to drunkards of Ephraim." Nothing like that sermon was ever heard before, either in manner, matter, or effect.

Rum began at once to be excluded from religious gatherings, funerals, and weddings, and Mr. Forrest is said then to have declared that he would never haul another drop of rum from Portsmouth or elsewhere. Rev. Liba Conant, who long preached there used to relate that he once attended an ordination at Loudon, where liquor was furnished and a fife and drum were used to call the people to the afternoon service.

Mr. Moses Winslow says that while the town was hesitating over the building and location of the Old Meeting House, Mr. Peter Wadleigh and others began one on the plain, just above Kendegeda brook, but it was burned, perhaps purposely. There is no record of it.

The Old Meeting House was built by the town and money appropriated for some years to pay for preaching, and a committee chosen to see to the supply at each annual town-meeting.

The first bridge over the Winnipisogee river was a few rods east of the present structure, by the Firth mill, and was made of birch logs in 1763. The town voted \$300 "old tenner," to help build it, and it was used for

horses as well as pedestrians. It was over this bridge that Mr. Runnels says the Burleys passed on their way to their new home in Sanbornton. Let us imagine we are in sight. First comes Mrs. Burley on horseback, with the two youngest children in her arms. Behind her was a bag containing a bushel and a half of meal. In a bed tick, thrown over the horse, was the barnyard poultry. There were holes cut in the lower portions, on either side, for breathing places for the birds, out of which their heads protruded. Mr. Burley followed on foot, with the two older boys and two cows.

A better bridge was built with the assistance of Canterbury, in 1784, which was carried away by an ice freshet in 1824. Another took its place at once. This one fell in 1839, with a six-horse stage full of passengers on it. None of them lost their lives, but several were thrown into the water and otherwise injured, and later recovered damages of the town. But one of the horses was rescued.

There was also a bridge over the river, close by the Holmes, now the "Tilton mills," built by subscription. Squire Nathaniel Holmes was the prime mover. Mr. John Dearborn, father of Joseph P., furnished the lumber and much of the labor. Mr. Holmes wished to use a house standing over the river as a boarding house. He purchased the Philip Clough farm of which this house was the center, embracing the land where the first seminary stood, and as far south as the fair grounds. To improve its value, he laid out a three-rod road, across the farm to the Colony road, buying a strip of land of Mr. Cate. This road, past Mr. Holmes's house,

by the mill, over the bridge, and as far south as the Colony road, was on his own land and was never a highway until Park street was laid out, in 1857, and extended across the plain to the Kendegeda bridge.

An old sawmill stood at the east end of this bridge, which was built in old Colonial times, no one knows when. It was purchased by the railroad and in course of time demolished. The bridge, too, was not a very substantial structure. One end fell into the river, and the other was pulled down.

The route of the Boston, Concord & Montreal railroad, as first surveyed, in 1844, after crossing the brook on the plains, bore to the east, crossing the fields back of Jason Foss's buildings and B. F. Coffran's, along the side of the hill to a point a little above the "Granite Mills," where the depots were to be located. The village people were not thus to be left out, and raised such a clamor that the present course was granted, thus adding two long cuts and two bridges to the cost of construction.

The road was opened to Sanborn-ton Bridge, May 22, 1848, with great rejoicing. All day the citizens of Northfield and Sanbornton Bridge were transported to Concord and back free of charge.

Mr. Hunt, in his Centennial address, tells of a Mrs. Colby who used to warp her webs on the apple trees; also of the many women and children who used to braid hats and pick berries, sometimes for the entire support of large families, but Mrs. John Simonds without doubt excelled

them all. Her son, Thomas, used to tell of a fine suit of clothes she wove and made for him, using only bear's hair and thistledown, and that they passed for broadcloth when he wore them up to Danville Green to muster.

It was quite the custom for the female teachers, even if they had fifty or sixty scholars and boarded round, to spin and weave a web of cloth each term in some friendly home in the neighborhood.

Mr. Dockham, who had charge of erecting the first seminary building, told me that it was begun without any plans or estimates. They were to erect a house seventy feet long, forty wide, and two stories in height.

Those of you who remember the location of the "United Panoplian" reading-room, and the primary school-room will not wonder at their unsuitable location. Warren Hill made the bricks for it from the clay bank, back of the Granite mills, Colonel Cofran burned them, and Isaac Bodwell laid the walls.

¹ In December, 1835, Rev. Geo. Storrs attempted to deliver an antislavery lecture in the Methodist church, now the town house, but was dragged from his knees while in prayer, preliminary to his address, by a deputy sheriff on a warrant charging him with being an idle and disorderly person, going about the town and county disturbing the public peace.

His trial took place the next day and he was acquitted.

Northfield cannot boast of any man of extraordinary fame. We have furnished no president, no governor, no Hobson or Dewey, but among the

residents of the olden time was a pre-eminently lazy man and a wonderful story teller. The former, William Glines, was generally known by the attractive name of "Old Cartnap," as were his descendants to the latest generation. The old fellow had met with the men of the neighborhood to work out the highway tax. He was slow and in everybody's way, and gladly accepted their suggestion to get under a cart by the roadside, and sleep while they worked out his tax. Just how much he slept is not told, as he was pelted from time to time with clods and dirt by the fun-loving men and boys. His mother was a Cartwright, a noble family in Boston, and thus had a right (wright) to the Cart. His wife, Hannah Hancock, was a niece of John Hancock, who signed the Declaration of Independence. Let it be said also that his seeming indolence may have been caused by the hardships of his youthful service in the Revolutionary War in which he suffered the privations of prison life. Two of his sons, who went to the West, became prosperous and wealthy men, the one at Findlay, and the other at Marietta, Ohio.

The story teller, Grandsire Hall, used to sit on winter evenings, in the chimney corner, and tell of the wonderful things that used to happen when he was a boy. He used to tell of a snow storm that came the last day of April. At first, it was only an inch of show and an inch of hail on top of it. Then for years, it was a foot of snow and a foot of hail on top of it, and as time passed on it became a rod of snow and a rod on top of it.

Mr. Simonds, familiarly called

¹ Greeley's "History of the Great Rebellion

"Uncle Tom," was very weather-wise, and used to go about the neighborhood announcing a storm coming, as his eye, that wasn't there, had pained him all night, and the almanac said the moon was "apodging."

But the quaintest of all quaint people was the family of Sergeant Blanchard. His two dwarf sons, stubbing about town, wearing stovepipe hats given them by the fun-loving boys, were, like "Falstaff's recruits," intensely comical. Nature had played havoc with them physically, with such wonderful uniformity, that half the well matched yokes of oxen in town, for years, were named for them, "Billy and Jerry." The father had been in the army and was every inch a soldier.

It is said that at his wife's funeral, dazed by his grief, perhaps, and having in mind the long procession as it followed him over the snow, thought he was conducting a dress parade, and called out "Halt!" He then proceeded to tell them that "forty year ago I shot a 'beer' on this very spot." Then calling out "forward march," they proceeded. A few months later his daughter went in haste to a neighbor's and said, "Dad's mighty bad off! Aint gwine ter live long, want to get something good to read to him. Wont yer lend me yer last year's almanack!"

Warren H. Smith was for many years preëminently the business man of the town. He began building railroads in 1847, more than a half century ago, when thirty years of age, having previously for some years

farmed extensively in summer and engaged winters in lumbering. His first contract commenced two miles below Sanbornton Bridge and extended to Warren, sixty-four miles. Later from Warren to Wells River, twenty-two miles. Then, in 1848, he built five miles on the Manchester & Lawrence, also from Wells River to St. Johnsbury in 1850. He then went to Connecticut in 1853, for a contract on the Fishkill & Providence, and thence to Tennessee. He built eleven miles on the Suncook and fifteen on the Sugar River road, twenty-five miles from Cohasset to Duxbury, thirty-eight on the Montpelier and Wells River, and nine and a half on the Franconia Notch. Nearly all these contracts included grading, track laying, masonry, and bridging, and required a large force of laborers.

Joseph Gerrish was for many years the leading farmer of the town. His farm consisted of many acres of both intervale and upland. He erected spacious barns and a large and commodious house. He possessed good horses, ample means, and a family of thirteen children. He lived generously and was looked up to and respected as one of the most substantial farmers in the town. He died in 1851, leaving three highly cultivated and fruitful farms to his sons, none of whom now live, and scarcely an acre of land still remains in the family name. Mr. Gerrish, in the early part of the Revolutionary War, erected a still and manufactured whiskey from potatoes of his own raising, but abandoned the business after peace was restored.

¹ Hon. Asa P. Cate was perhaps the most eminent public man of the town where he spent the whole of his useful life. He was a lawyer of note, a judge of Probate for Merrimack county, a senator and president of the senate, a liberal friend of the New Hampshire Conference seminary, superintendent of school for many years, county solicitor, railroad commissioner, his party's candidate for governor, and the founder of the Citizens' National Bank.

He had also the following military record: He was lieutenant of the Second Company of Light Infantry in the Thirty-eighth Regiment in 1833, promoted to captain the year following, major in 1837, lieutenant-colonel the next year, and colonel in 1839.

I cannot close without paying due tribute to the natural beauty and attractiveness of this my native town, to the dear ones long since passed on before, who watched over my childhood and the earnest teachers who guided my wayward feet along the often rugged path of knowledge, to the man of God who so earnestly set before us the things that make for peace and right living, to the noble

(George H. Moses in GRANITE MONTHLY.

institution which was once the joy and pride of us all, where noble and wise men and women showed us the curious things of nature, art, and science, which have made so many of our lives rich in thought, feeling, knowledge, and reminiscence.

Coming back after some years' sojourn upon the prairies of the West I appreciate more than ever the charming variety of hill and dale and noble forest. How forcibly does my heart respond to the sentiment expressed by the poet Goldsmith, in his "Deserted Village," a sentiment assented to by so many, who, in distant homes, long ever for the dear scenes of childhood:

"In all my wanderings round this world of care,
In all my griefs—and God has given my share—
I still had hopes my latest hours to crown,
Amidst these humble bowers to lay me down,
To husband out life's taper at the close,
And keep the flame from wasting by repose,
And, as an hare, whom hounds and horns pursue
Pants to the place from whence at first she flew,
I still had hopes my long vexations past
Safe to return—and die at home at last.

NOTE—Authorities drawn upon: Runnell's "History of Sanbornton;" Potter's "Military History of New Hampshire;" "Adjutant General's Records;" Professor Hunt's "Centennial Address;" "Papers of the Late Judge Nesmith;" Mrs. Mary A. Jones; Mrs. William Clough; Mrs. Jason Foss; Mrs. F. S. Spencer, and others.

P. Ja'17



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